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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,827	01/14/2004	Yoshio Miyamoto	042018	2379
38834	7590	11/07/2005	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				TRIEU, VAN THANH
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2636		

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/756,827	MIYAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Van T. Trieu	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Norwood [US 4,352,376]**.

Regarding claim 1, the claimed an electronic digital pressure switch for detecting a gas pressure and generating an output, comprising: a housing that has a ventilating portion allowing a gas to pass there through (the digital gas controller 60 having a housing 112 with a gas input 142 and a gas output 140 at a manifold 138, see Figs. 1, 6, 17 and 19, col. 12, lines 1-10 and 61-66, col. 34, lines 48-62, col. 36, lines 36-49 and col. 37, lines 10-15); and the output generated by the digital pressure switch is used to control the gas pressure detected by the digital pressure switch (the digital gas controller 60 generates output signals to control the operation functions of a motor valve 34 according to the gas pressure level passing through the housing 112 via gas input 142 and gas output 140 prior the gas pressure reaching a certain level, see Figs. 1-4, 7B and 8-16, col. 4, lines 30-53, col. 6, lines 1-12, col. 9, lines 7-18, col. 12, lines 67-68, col. 13, lines 1-68, col. 14, lines 1-39, col. 18, lines 1-54, col. 36, lines 1-68 and col. 37, lines 1-65).

Regarding claim 3, the claimed ventilation portions are at both upper and lower portions of the housing, see Figs. 6 and 17-19).

Regarding claim 4, the contact output that turns ON/OFF according to detected pressure and that allows ON and OFF values to be set (the digital pressure controller 60 automatically controls of turning the gas pressure valve ON/OFF according to the detected pressure sets by the latch terminals 250 from a CPU 150, see Figs. 1-3, 7B, col. 8, lines 54-68, col. 9, lines 8-66, col. 17, lines 67-68, col. 18, lines 1-39 and col. 34, lines 1-47); and the display means (the display 292, see Figs. 4, 7B and 16, col. 12, lines 18-33, col. 18, lines 40-63 and col. 34, lines 25-47); and the terminal board for connecting an external wire to the contact output (the terminal board 180-183 and 772, see Figs. 17 and 18); and the analog output that changes its output values according to detected pressure, wherein the analog output is directly drawn out from a substrate (the processor CPU 150 responses to the detected outputs of select duration for generating actuation signal to operate the motor valve 34 in the form of current/voltage signals, see Figs. 1, col. 4, lines 45-53, col. 8, lines 59-68 and col. 9, lines 7-49).

Regarding claim 5, the claimed plurality of the contact outputs (the electrical signal outputs to the motor valve 34 and display 292, see Figs. 1 and 4, col. 18, lines 40-63).

Regarding claim 6, the claimed delay time can be set for the contact output or the contact outputs (the set/reset delay time, see Figs. 8-16, col. 4, lines 65-68, col. 5, lines 1-43, col. 13, lines 45-68 and col. 14, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 7, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 8, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 5 and 7 above.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 25 August 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. A new reference of Norwood discloses of a digital controller housing allows gas passing through for controlling of the gas pressure and display its state or status, which makes the rejection smoother, as above.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Claim 9 is allowable over the prior art.

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5. Claims 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (571) 272-2972. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mr. Jeffery Hofsass** can be reached on (571) 272-2981.



Van Trieu
Primary Examiner
Date: 11/2/05